

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN  
OKINAWA BUREAU  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96239**

4 February 1981  
MOK-014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Okinawa Bureau--January 1981

**I. GENERAL**

A. Consul General Straus, in his annual report in mid-January, described 1980 as "another good year for U.S. interests on Okinawa." Reviewing the major achievements of the past year, the report stated that Okinawa Governor Nishime, a strong supporter of the U.S. Japan security relationship, had consolidated his power during the year and succeeded in securing a number of projects which would continue to benefit the island economically. The central government in Tokyo voted a 2.2 percent increase in the budget allocation for Okinawa, a significant boost in a tight budget year. Included in this expanded budget is a monorail to relieve traffic congestion in the crowded southern part of the island. The report by Straus also noted that 1980 was notable for the virtual absence of any serious U.S. base-related incidents. Straus foresaw a "bright outlook for 1981" with local political stability, a gradually improving economic outlook and a steady improvement in local attitudes toward defense issues.

B. The monetary situation looked slightly better at month's end with the yen rising again above the 200 to the dollar level. The official rate of exchange for bureau transactions for February will be 205 to the dollar.

**II. OPERATIONS**

**A. Monitorial/Editorial**

1. The sentencing of the "gang of four" and area reaction to Reagan's inauguration and the release of the hostages represented the bureau's major coverage efforts during a relatively slow month.

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2. From 12 to 20 January, Okinawa Bureau assumed coverage of most of Hong Kong Bureau's Chinese regional stations while the Bureau was being relocated to the Hopewell Building. Coverage of Manila Far East Broadcasting Corporation, which Okinawa transferred to Hong Kong only a few months ago, was again attempted by this bureau during the move but with little success owing to the usual poor reception.

3. For the second time since one Russian monitor slot was transferred to Seoul Bureau last year, all Russian coverage by the Far East bureaus was left up to Seoul Bureau while Okinawa's one monitor, [ ] took 2 weeks of leave to sail on a 17 ft. yacht to the Philippines. Seoul's Russian coverage was extended due to [ ] delay in returning to Okinawa. We learned on the 27th that the yacht had capsized in rough seas between Taiwan and the Philippines and [ ] and his two companions were picked up by a passing Japanese freighter bound for Indonesia. Latest information available had the freighter arriving in Sumatra on 5 February, with [ ] back in Okinawa a few days after that.

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#### B. Lateral Special Services

On 7 January the bureau received a request from U.S. armed forces radio (FEN) on Okinawa for assistance in identifying a foreign language station interfering with FEN's AM broadcasts during the late night hours. Chief Cruiser [ ] identified the station as Beijing Domestic. FEN wanted to make an announcement explaining where the interference was coming from and citing FBIS as the source of information, but they honored our request for anonymity.

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#### C. Technical

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### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. Two more bureau staffers--editor [ ] and Assistant Engineer [ ]--received well-deserved promotions to GS-12 during the month.

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2. Effective 1 January 1981, stricter auto registration and inspection procedures went into effect for U.S. Forces stationed on Okinawa. The new procedure, which calls for more thorough and costly inspections twice yearly, has been in use on Okinawa for a number of years but U.S. personnel were previously exempted. All vehicles on Okinawa will now be subject to the same Japanese inspection process

3. Chinese monitor [ ] gave notice during the month that he intends to resign in early March. [ ] who was hired by the bureau in September 1980, intends to return to Taiwan and continue work on a graduate degree.

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B. Buildings & Grounds

1. A new procedure for determining our water consumption at the housing area was initiated several months ago and has resulted in an approximate 50 percent decrease in monthly costs. Water meters were installed on three randomly-selected houses in our compound and the Air Force now uses the average consumption reading on these three houses to determine our overall bill. Previously we were billed on an average consumption per housing unit for all of Kadena Air Base.

IV. VISITS

A. To the bureau:

1. [ ] Deputy Director/OL, 14-18 January. During his stay here, arrangements were made for a meeting with General Joseph Went, commander of 3d Force Service Support Group, and a briefing on Marine Corps supply/logistics in the Far East.

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2. Lt. Col. George Stinson, commander U.S. Army Communications Command, Okinawa, 20 January, for a courtesy call on the Bureau Chief. Three new senior supervisors at the Ft. Buckner communications facility also visited the bureau during the month for a familiarization briefing and tour by Chief Engineer [ ]

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3. Yomitan Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi, Mr. Arakaki, secretary to the Mayor, and Mr. Oshira, chief of nearby Tokoshi village, visited the bureau on 4 February. The visit concerned a minor land issue, but provided me an opportunity to meet the mayor for the first time.

B. From the bureau:

1. I paid a courtesy call on General Joseph Went, commander 3d Force Service Support Group, on 7 January.

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2. [redacted] TDYed in Hong Kong 8-21 January to assist with the bureau relocation.

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3. I visited Seoul Bureau 22-26 January; on the 27th and 28th met with American Embassy Tokyo and Headquarters/USFJ officials, including Lt. Gen. William Ginn, commander 5th Air Force and head of USFJ.

4. Cruising Officer [redacted] departed for Taiwan and Hong Kong on 28 January for R&R, to be followed by a 2-week cruising survey to check out the new antenna field.

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[redacted]  
Bureau Chief

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Attachment:  
Production Reports

cc: Seoul Bureau  
Hong Kong Bureau  
Bangkok Bureau